31: Slater S-5 (1916-1917) 1918 AWI India Kerala AWII

286 yard in width and 1½ or 2 yards long. They find it difficult to maintain themselves with this work and also rent small plots of land, and some possess land. They use the unimproved hand-loom. There is no co-operation among them. They sell their cloth in the adjoining market of the village and do not care to send it to other villages. At times they take orders. They do not spin but buy inferior yarn from the market which gets its supply from Bombay through Cochin and Calicut and at times Ponnāni.

463 *Other crafts.*—

Sawyers	4	families.
Carpenters	11	,,
Copper workers	1	family.
Iron workers	2	families.
Goldsmiths	7	,,
Masons	10	,,

These give their whole time to the craft.

Native umbrellas and baskets are made by all Pariahs.

[283] Rope-making—thick as well as thin—is carried on by nearly all the women of the Tiyyas and their sub-sects. Some women are wholly engaged in this work and they sell their ropes in the market themselves. The Pariahs make a peculiar kind of rope from grass, which is used for tying calves, and as reins for bulls. The rope is good and strong. They sell a rope for a measure of rice.

Leather work is done by one family which also practises agriculture.

These craftsmen have existed from times long past with no change in their condition or tools. There is no co-operation among them. Their capital is only their tools. They get sufficient work for their maintenance. There is no improvement with regard to their designs except in the case of the goldsmiths whose work is daily increasing and who are the only craftsmen who invent designs. The condition of blacksmiths is getting worse on account of the importation of foreign iron goods. His only work nowadays is to fit things, not to make them as of yore. He does not now make the nails, screws, iron bars, locks, knives, etc. These are bought from the bazaar and he fits them. But he makes all the tools necessary for other crafts and for agriculture. The same is the case with the coppersmith, but he gets sufficient work as people desire to get valuable vessels made in their presence. But his condition may be regarded as precarious. There is no change in the other craftsmen.

[283] Coir rope-making is the chief source of income for all the low caste women. They beat the soft cover of the coconut, after it is well soaked, into fibre, and twist it into strands, and the strands into ropes, in their hands. The rope is sold to the local shop-keepers daily. Some women themselves take the rope to the local fairs. Their work is increasing.

245 The other industry followed by a great many people is coconut oil-pressing. The whole Christian community with some others subsists on that work. They become tenants to big kanomdars and sometimes buy coconuts from others and extract the oil and sell it in the local market. Some big shopkeepers collect the oil and send it in large quantities to Cochin whence it is exported. One machine mill is already at work in a place